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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 000141

SIPDIS
NOFORN
DEPARTMENT FOR WHA DAS JACOBSON, MEX LEE AND PPC NSC FOR RESTREPO AND O'REILLY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PASS TO AMCONSUL RECIFE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PASS TO AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PASS TO AMEMBASSY GRENADA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
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TAGS PREL, OAS, KSUM, KPIN, CACM, CDB, XM, XR, XS, XL, MX

SUBJECT: Mexico's Latin American Unity Summit -- Back to the Future?
REF: 10 MEXICO 127; 10 SANTIAGO 51; 10 SANTO DOMINGO 67
DERIVED FROM: DSCG 05-1 B, D

1. (C) Summary: Mexico's ambitious plan to use its final Rio Group Presidency Summit (Cancun 22-23 February) to create a new more operational
2. (C) Notwithstanding President Calderon's best intentions to create a more practical regional forum for regionally dealing with Latin Americ
3. (C) Already at the ceremonial opening on Monday (22 February) it was clear that things were not going well. Negotiations on the declarator
4. (C) Even Calderon's own PAN party officials were privately dismissive of the event. PAN international affairs coordinator Rodrigo Cortez ch
MEXICO 00000141 002 OF 003
5. (C) The low point of the meeting was the verbal exchange between Uribe and Chavez at the opening day official lunch. Uribe raised Venezuela
6. (C) Osorio was very critical of the Summit, terming it the worst expression of Banana Republic discourse that blames all of the regions prc
7. (C) Brazilian DCM Antonio Francisco Da Costa E Silva Neto conveyed his country's view that Brazil had done a better job of managing the sun
8. (C) We heard similar themes from ex-Ambassador Jorge Montano, a PRI-connected, former respected senior Mexican diplomat. He echoed Cortez'
9. (C) The media coverage did not in any way suggest a practical forum and there was a good supply of criticism, in addition to Montano's piec
Comment

10. (C) In the end Mexico was limited to agreement on a new forum but without any specific commitments on institutional details. The Cancun de
MEXICO 00000141 003 OF 003
that reflects the lack of agreement with its general and non-specific language. The press play leaned towards the critical side and even those
11. (C) We have not had yet received the official GOM post-Summit read-out from our SRE and Presidency sources - they have been busy finishing